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LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 23 September 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia

A continued escalation of the military action unleashed by the separatists in violation of the Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July 1993 is taking place. It is particularly outrageous that the attack on inhabited areas in the conflict zone is being conducted after thousands of refugees who trusted in a peaceful settlement of the conflict had returned to the place of their birth.

As a result of the use of heavy military equipment by the Gudauta separatists, the civilian population is coming under concentrated fire, and Georgians, Abkhaz, Russians and Armenians are dying. The Republican hospital and the maternity ward in Sukhumi have been destroyed.

On 19 September, after capturing the village of Akhaldaba, the Abkhaz forces carried out a massacre in which 60 civilian inhabitants of the village, mainly women and children, were shot on the spot. The fate of the 600 people - elderly persons, women and children - driven into the Akhaldaba stadium is as yet unknown.

On 21 September, at 4.25 p.m., a TU-134 civilian aircraft from the Sukhumi air unit, on a flight from Sochi to Sukhumi, was hit, 5 kilometres from Sukhumi airport and at an altitude of 300 metres, by a heat-seeking missile fired from an Abkhaz gunboat. As a result of this barbaric act 21 passengers, including a child in arms, were killed, as well as the six members of the crew.

On 22 September, at 5.50 p.m., a TU-154 civilian airliner carrying supplies and medications to the besieged town was shot down by the same gunboat while landing at Sukhumi airport. The crew was able to land the blazing aircraft, but a tragedy could not be avoided, and 46 passengers died.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia registers a strong protest against such barbaric actions, which nullify all the efforts aimed at a renewal of the peace process, and calls on the world community and international organizations to condemn the outrages committed by the Gudauta authorities and to qualify these actions as a gross violation of human rights and a crime against peace and humanity.